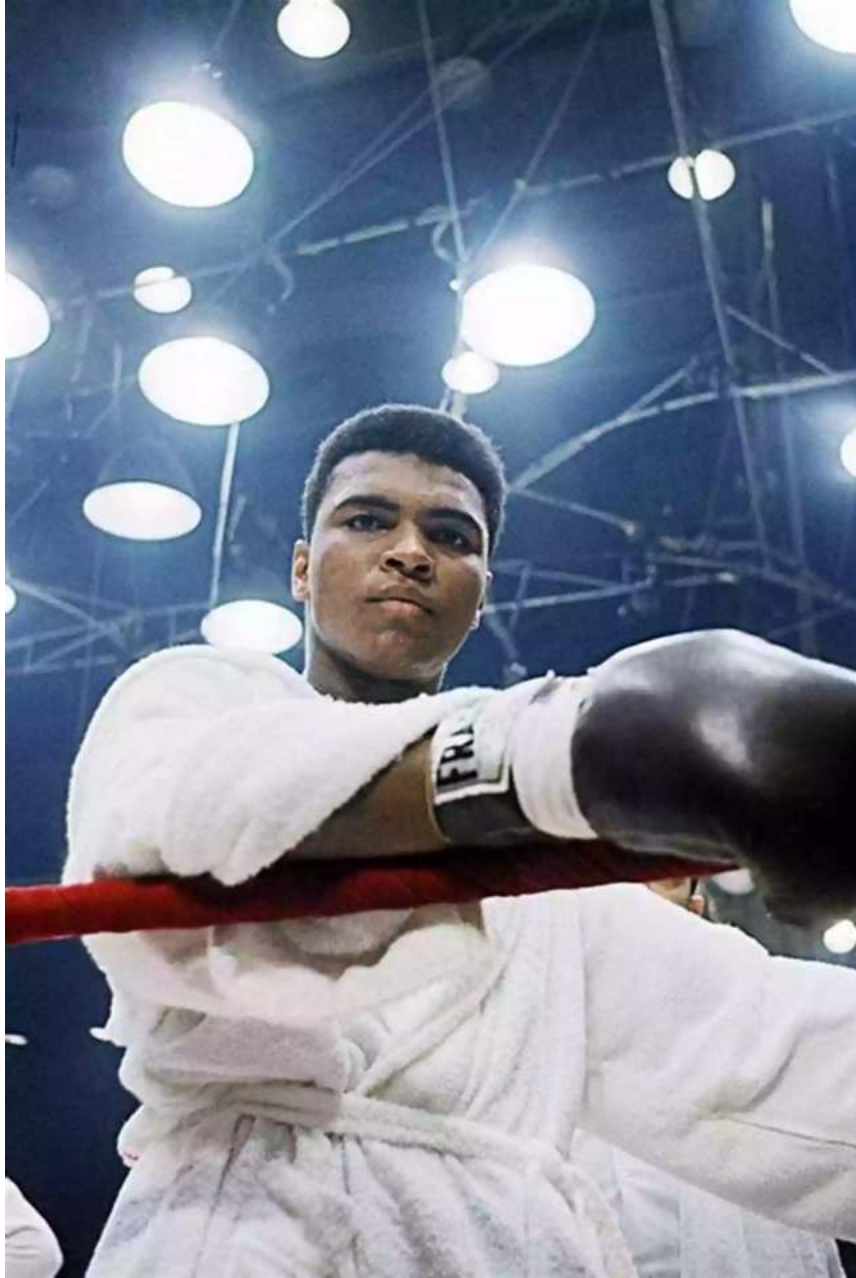


# The Life and Legend of Roberto Duran: Triumph and Determination

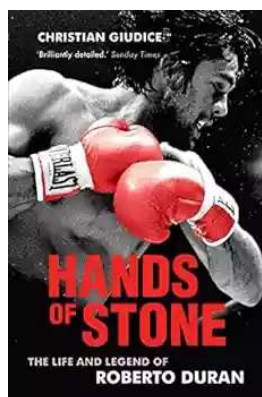


Roberto Duran is a name that resonates within the world of boxing. Known as "Manos de Piedra" or "Hands of Stone," Duran's illustrious career is marked by his unparalleled determination, remarkable resilience, and extraordinary talent. Born and raised in Panama, Duran's journey from poverty to becoming one of the

greatest fighters in the history of the sport is nothing short of inspiring. Let us dive deep into the fascinating life and legend of Roberto Duran.

## Early Life and the Making of a Champion

Roberto Duran was born on June 16, 1951, in El Chorrillo, an impoverished neighborhood in Panama City, Panama. Growing up amidst poverty and hardships, Duran learned to fight at a young age, both inside and outside the boxing ring. His aggressive nature and indomitable spirit caught the attention of boxing trainers who recognized his raw talent.



### Hands of Stone: The Life and Legend of Roberto

**Duran** by Christian Giudice(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
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At the tender age of 16, Duran made his professional boxing debut on the 23rd of February, 1967, skyrocketing him into the world of professional boxing. His sheer determination and gritty style impressed boxing enthusiasts during his early fights, establishing an image of an aggressive yet technically skilled fighter.

## **The Rise to Prominence**

As the years went by, Roberto Duran's career gathered momentum. He claimed victory after victory, often imposing his intimidating style on his opponents.

Duran's relentless pursuit of excellence led him to win his first world title on June 26, 1972, when he defeated Ken Buchanan to become the WBA Lightweight Champion.

Duran's ferocious boxing skills and gritty personality captured the attention of the boxing world. His notable victories over Esteban De Jesus, Sugar Ray Leonard, Davey Moore, and Carlos Palomino further solidified his position as a force to be reckoned with. His aggressive and unrelenting style inside the ring earned him fans across the globe.

## **The Duran-Leonard Rivalry**

One of the defining moments in Roberto Duran's career came during his legendary battles against Sugar Ray Leonard. The rivalry between Duran and Leonard is one of boxing's most memorable and fiercely contested rivalries, with their bouts showcasing the clash of two titanic forces.

The first fight between Duran and Leonard took place on June 20, 1980, in Montreal. The tension-filled match ended with Duran defeating Leonard to claim the WBC Welterweight title. This victory marked a significant milestone in Duran's career, solidifying his status as one of boxing's all-time greats.

However, the storyline of their rivalry took an unexpected turn in their rematch on November 25, 1980, in New Orleans. During the eighth round, Duran abruptly quit the fight, uttering the now-famous words, "No mas" (no more). This decision shocked the boxing world and left fans puzzled about the reasons behind Duran's sudden capitulation.

## **The Comeback and Final Years**

After the shocking "No mas" incident, Duran faced criticism and ridicule from some quarters of the boxing community. However, true to his resilient nature, Duran made an epic comeback and never let that incident define his legacy.

He continued to box at the highest level, proving his critics wrong and reminding the world of his exceptional talent. Duran's comeback included impressive wins against top contenders such as Iran Barkley, Pipino Cuevas, and Vinny Pazienza.

Roberto Duran finally retired from professional boxing on January 30, 2002, at the age of 50, leaving behind a remarkable legacy that continues to inspire future generations of fighters.

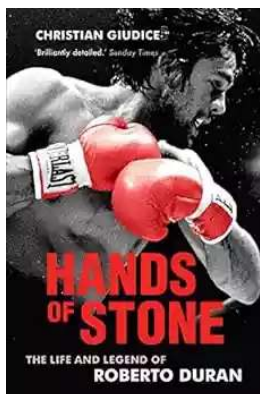
## **The enduring legacy of Roberto Duran**

The life and legend of Roberto Duran continue to influence the boxing world and beyond. His fierce determination, unwavering spirit, and immense skill have left an indelible mark on the sport. Duran's incredible legacy is a testament to the power of resilience and the triumph of the human spirit.

Outside the ring, Duran's philanthropic efforts have transformed the lives of countless individuals. He established the Roberto Duran Foundation, which focuses on supporting children, educational initiatives, and community development in Panama.

Roberto Duran's life and legend stand as a testament to the power of determination, resilience, and talent. From his humble beginnings in El Chorrillo to his rise as one of the greatest boxers of all time, Duran's journey has captivated the boxing world and continues to inspire others.

The story of "Manos de Piedra" serves as a reminder of what can be achieved through unwavering dedication and relentless pursuit of one's dreams. Roberto Duran's legacy will forever be etched in the annals of boxing history, leaving a lasting impact on both the sport and the lives he touched.



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Now the subject of a major motion picture, Roberto Duran is a sporting legend. Often called the greatest boxer of all time, he held world titles at four different weights and is the only professional in history to have fought in five different decades. His bouts with fellow greats like Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns and Marvin Hagler have gone down in fistic folklore and his pro record of 104 wins, 69 by KO, in 120 fights puts him in an elite group of fighters. They called him Manos de Piedra: "Hands of Stone".

American journalist Christian Giudice has written the first – and definitive – story of Duran's extraordinary life both in and out of the ring. He has interviewed the

fighter himself, his family and closest friends and scores of his opponents to separate truth from myth and get to the heart of one of the most intriguing sports stars of modern times.

Duran was born in utter poverty in the Panama Canal Zone, the illegitimate son of a serving US soldier and a local girl. He grew up in the streets, fighting to survive. His talent with his fists was soon apparent, and on one fabled occasion he even knocked down a horse with a single punch for a bet. He grew into a fighter's fighter, and his willingness to take on anyone, anywhere, anytime and never take a step back made him a huge favorite.

From his wild early bouts to his stunning boxing debut in New York, Giudice traces the blazing trail of his career: the controversial title win over Scot Ken Buchanan; his unification of the lightweight crown against great rival Esteban DeJesus; his glorious defeat of Ray Leonard and the subsequent debacle of the No Más encounter; his ferocious comeback and redemption, and the long, eventful twilight of his matchless career. Here also are both the public and private sides of Duran: his volatility, his kindness and reckless generosity, his partying, his links with the notorious regime of General Noriega, and above all his chilling love of battle.

The Sunday Times: 'A brilliantly detailed biography...Giudice's book has successfully done Duran justice.'

The Ring: 'A riveting read from the first page to the last.'

Daily Star: 'A cracking book recording Duran's glorious career.'

Boxing Monthly: 'A great achievement. If you only buy one boxing book this year, Hands of Stone should be it'

Liverpool Echo: 'An absolute must for all fight fans.'

Dublin Evening Herald: 'A gripping biography. Every page will keep readers enthralled.'

The Independent: 'The dazzling first, and definitive, account of a breathtaking fighter and a remarkable man.'

The Sun: 'A compelling story.'



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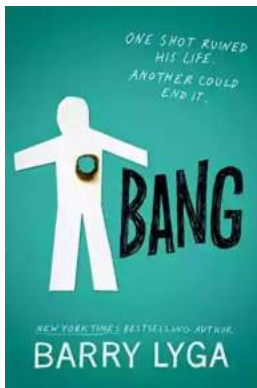
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